

MAPS FOR THE BLIND.

Jean M. Christmas.

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**M.C. MIGEL LIBRARY**  
**AMERICAN PRINTING**  
**HOUSE FOR THE BLIND**



# Maps for the Blind

By Jean M. Christmas\*

**M**APS for the blind are being turned out in quantity at the St. Anthony Branch Library in St. Paul as the result of a unique project under the joint sponsorship of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Department of Parks and Playgrounds.

Mrs. Leslie R. Fellows of St. Paul, inventor of the first practical and inexpensive maps for the blind, is in charge of the work. From 10 to 25 girls are employed daily in a workroom which has been fitted up in the auditorium of the St. Anthony Park Branch Library.

The project calls for the making of 200 maps, a number which, it is estimated, will supply the needs of all the blind in St. Paul who can make use of them. Fifty hours are needed for the completion of one map, and four months is the time allowed for the entire project.

Mrs. Fellows has spent over two years in perfecting her method of making maps which would convey a definite image easily memorized by the blind person, and in determining the kind of materials which would be most helpful to his searching fingers.

"I was first interested in the idea," Mrs. Fellows explained, "by a blind piano tuner who came to my home. I discovered that he seemed to know directions and streets better than many persons with sight. 'How do you find your way around so well?' I asked. 'I suppose you have Braille maps?' 'Braille maps!' he said. 'What a wonderful idea! I wish I had. I've sometimes thought of making myself a relief map.' And so I began working out a map of the Twin Cities. And I must say I think it is the most useful bit of embroidery I ever did."

The map which Mrs. Fellows devised is out of the embroidery class. It has evolved into an interesting piece of creative work. The foundation is a printed

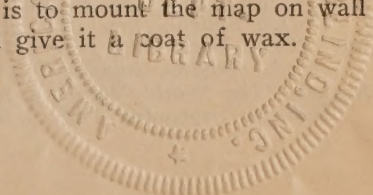
and colored map of St. Paul, 24 by 36 inches, with a scale of three and one-fourth inches to the mile. The first step in changing this into a relief map is to mount the paper map on muslin. Then the principal streets, carlines, the lakes and the river are all outlined in hand stitching, using a variety of threads and other materials to suggest definite descriptive facts to the tactual sense of the blind.

Rivers and lakes are outlined in parallel lines of soft yarn, suggesting the softness of their banks; the main traffic arteries of the city are of heavy fish line; the carlines are each, by an ingenious device, at once outlined and marked by a row of round and rectangular bugle beads strung in dots and dashes to form a letter of the International Morse code. The blind person, feeling under his fingers a string of beads arranged according to the pattern dash-dot-dot reads it as the letter D and knows he is following the Dale-Phalen line.

Important bridges are indicated by parallel brass wire staples; dangerous crossings by a single staple. Buildings, such as schools, which would serve as landmarks, and parks, golf links, cemeteries, etc., are indicated by areas covered with shellac over which are sprinkled small crystal beads to form a sand-papery surface. Everything important is labeled with Braille lettering pasted on the map. Because the Braille consists of raised dots, no knots may be tied in the threads used in making the map, since they might be felt under the surface and confused with the labels. The ends of all threads must therefore be secured by pasting bits of paper over them on the under side of the map. The final step is to mount the map on wall board and give it a coat of wax.

\* Extension Division, St. Paul (Minn.) Public Library

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## ADVENTURES IN THE ARTS

Exhibit prepared at the Hild Regional Branch Library, Chicago

new material used for any given monthly exhibit costing from \$.22 to \$.74, the possibilities for effective exhibit publicity under seriously curtailed budget conditions are seen.

The complete year's list of topics and the location of the illustration and description of each exhibit is given below.

October—"National and International Issues"

—A.L.A. Bulletin, October 1934, p. 795-7.

November—"The Art of Reading"—Wilson Bulletin, November 1934, p. 146-7.

December—"Growing Up with Books"—Wilson Bulletin, December 1934, p. 204-5.

January—"Balancing One's Budget"—Wilson Bulletin, January 1935, p. 262-3.

February—"Hobbies"—Wilson Bulletin, February 1935, p. 322-3.

March—"Developing a Personal Philosophy"—Wilson Bulletin, March 1935, p. 382-3.

April—"Gardening"—Wilson Bulletin, April 1935, p. 438-9.

May—"Aids for Parents"—Wilson Bulletin, May 1935, p. 497.

June—"Thru College on Nothing a Year"—Wilson Bulletin, June 1935, p. 580-1.

July—"Good Health and How to Keep It"—A.L.A. Bulletin, August 1935, p. 513.

August—"The World We Live In"—Wilson Bulletin, September 1935, p. 48-9.

September—"Adventures in the Arts"—Wilson Bulletin, October 1935, p. 130-1.

## Committee Leaders Announced

The following are a few of the committee appointments which will be in effect during the forthcoming year, according to President Wilson. The names given below are those of committee chairmen, except where otherwise indicated.

Annuities and Pensions—Harold F. Brigham  
Board of Education for Librarianship—Margaret Mann (not chairman)

Board on the Library and Adult Education—Ralph A. Ulveling (not chairman) (F. F. Hopper re-elected chairman)

Cataloging and Classification—Harriet D. MacPherson

College Library Advisory Board—Blanche Prichard McCrum

Editorial Committee—Amy Winslow

Fellowships and Scholarships—Harrison W. Craver

Institution Libraries—Raymond C. Lindquist  
Library Administration—Althea Warren

Library Extension Board—Malcolm G. Wyer (not chairman) (C. B. Lester re-elected chairman)

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St. Paul Daily News

AT WORK ON MAPS FOR THE BLIND  
St. Anthony Branch Library, St. Paul, Minnesota

The use of the map is facilitated in three ways. First, it is accompanied by a Braille book of instructions, explaining the code letters, listing the streets and places named, and other necessary data. Then, to find these places, there is an ingenious finder, also invented by Mrs. Fellows, by which the blind person may locate any given place in a few seconds. This consists of a piece of flat, flexible steel, of a kind used in making locks. It is 23 inches long by  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch wide, and has a movable cross bar. This finder is hung from one of a row of small brass nails placed at exact intervals across the top of the map, corresponding to the sections into which the printed map is divided. If a given place is to be found in the square F3, for instance, the finder is hung on the nail over vertical section F, and the cross piece is moved up or down to horizontal section 3. And from there, the adept fingers can quickly find the nearest schools or other landmarks and the closest carline or boulevard. A third reason the map is so useful is that it is a visual as well as relief map, so that seeing persons may assist their blind friends in using it.

The mile gauge is an additional device for measuring distances. It consists of a 33 inch piece of fish line with beads fastened at  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inch intervals. When the first bead of the cord is held on the starting point, and the line carried around the route planned, the number of beads indicates the distance to be covered.

The independence of the blind pedestrian, once he has memorized his map and learned to orient himself, is assured. The only maps previously available to the sightless were expensive and rare, being outline maps in plaster or carved wood and covering large areas. Mrs. Fellows has simplified her map as much as possible, indicating only the principal features of the city, so as to make memorizing easy.

Assisting Mrs. Fellows in the project is Clarence Peterson, blind graduate of the University of Minnesota and member of Phi Beta Kappa. He is most enthusiastic over the possibilities of map making by this method. His particular share in the work is to type on his Braille typewriter the labels which are to be pasted on the maps.



# Regional Short Cuts

*By the Montclair (New Jersey) Public Library*

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The staff of the Montclair (New Jersey) Public Library, under the direction of Margery Quigley, has prepared this article describing some of the short cuts adopted at Montclair to bring a distant book and a library patron together with the minimum expenditure of time, money, and energy. This is the first of a series of collective articles in which various libraries will report on their favorite short cuts. We shall be happy to hear from any library that is willing to make a report of its innovations and time-savers.]

**L**IBRARY work appears to be going regional in a big way. The list below gives some of the efforts of a small public library to go regional also, in order to serve its regular users with more satisfaction than was possible when the library tried to operate as a thoroly self contained unit. Increased satisfaction was the original aim of these efforts. The desire to shorten the time between processes soon assumed almost as large proportions.

Round about Montclair thru informal agreements the public libraries within the range of a five-cent telephone call regard each other as cooperating reference agencies with books loaned to one another under few restrictions. Each effort described here is a short cut in the process of bringing a distant book to an ordinary borrower or inquirer. Genuine scholars or persons connected with institutions having special libraries for these clients are not in the picture.

## *Information and Reference Work*

Indispensable tools for our regional information work are, of course, the *Special Libraries Directory of the Metropolitan Area* and the *Union List of Serials*. Since New York is, however, an hour's ride from Montclair and there is a 20c toll for a three minute telephone conversation with New York our homemade regional short cuts center around the idea of locating material in the immediate neighborhood with the least amount of trial and error. In consequence we are working to provide

various substitutes for regional union shelf lists.

So far we have:

1. A union list of some 680 magazines in 32 public and semi-public institutions of Montclair, and the terms under which these magazines will be loaned. Copies of this union list are on file with the New Jersey Public Library Commission and the East Orange Library, four miles distant.
2. A union list of the newspapers on file in all libraries within a ten cent fare of Montclair. (In preparation)
3. A record of the holdings of the subscriptions of local banks to financial services such as Moody's.
4. The Granger and Granger supplement holdings of 7 public libraries in the vicinity.

The reference librarians of the vicinity are now working together on a list of indexes other than Granger which will be marked to show the joint holdings of the neighborhood libraries in the plan as well as the holdings of one's own library. As yet the Granger Index and its Supplement are the only completely checked reference lists.

One of the reference assistants is scheduled one day every other week to visit special libraries in the vicinity and to investigate there the resources and contributions of the libraries to the problems on which we happen to be working.

The references to Montclair in the United States Census have been extracted and filed, also underlined in color in the reports themselves.

## *Cataloging*

We have converted the six shelf lists within our own system into a union shelf list by blending, instead of by retyping or duplicating.

The task of blending the adult and juvenile shelf lists of the branches with that of the Main Library was accomplished in about three weeks by one of the C.W.A. temporary workers, who was familiar with shelf list arrangement. Its advantages were noticeable



# PAMPHLET BINDERS

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This is No. \_\_\_\_\_

also carried in stock in the following sizes

	HIGH	WIDE	THICKNESS		HIGH	WIDE	THICKNESS
1523	9 inches	7 inches	$\frac{1}{2}$ inch	1527	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches	7 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches	$\frac{1}{2}$ inch
1524	10 "	7 "	"	1528	11 "	8 "	"
1525	9 "	6 "	"	1529	12 "	10 "	"
1526	9 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	7 $\frac{1}{8}$ "	"	1530	12 "	9 $\frac{1}{8}$ "	"

Other sizes made to order.

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